

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-13 and 16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 7, 10-13 and 16 have been amended and claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 15 and 17 have been canceled.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 2, 3, 7 and 12. Accordingly, by this Amendment, Applicants incorporate the allowable features of claims 2 and 12 into claims 1 and 10.

An Election of Species was required in this application. Accordingly, Applicants elected Figure 2, claims 1-3, 7, 10 and 12 and submitted that at least claims 1 and 10 are generic to all species. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 10 and assert that claims 1 and 10 are readable on elected Figure 2 and remain generic to claims 4, 8, 11, 13 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 4, 8, 11, 13 and 16 should claims 1 and 10 be allowable because claims 1 and 10 remain generic to claims 4, 8, 11, 13 and 16 and thus would be allowable for the same reasons that claims 1 and 10 are allowable.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 2 responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Besnard, U.S. Patent No. 3,576,044. Applicants assert that this rejection has been rendered moot by the incorporation of the features of allowable claims 2 and 12 which Applicants believe to be allowable. In particular, it is asserted that Besnard fails to disclose a blade attaching structure with a connecting shaft having a larger diameter portion and a smaller diameter portion smaller than the larger diameter portion due to a chamfered portion created on the outer circumference of the connected shaft. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-13 and 16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte  
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/tea

Date: April 8, 2004

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--